

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 5-12 are pending. Claims 1-4, 13 and 14 are canceled.

Claim 5 is amended to recite a compound of formula (II), and to define the linking group as comprising a bivalent linking group comprising up to 20 skeletal atoms selected from carbon and oxygen. Support for this amendment is found in the application as filed, at page 5, lines 13-14.

No new matter is added by this amendment.

II. Restriction Requirement

In the office action, the Examiner required restriction among groups (I) – (IV), as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-4, drawn to methods;

Group II: Claims 5-12, drawn to compounds of formula (II) and their compositions;

Group III: Claim 13, drawn to a method of using compounds according to claim 5; and

Group IV: Claim 14, drawn to a process of preparing a compound according to claim 5.

As noted by the Examiner at page 8 of the office action, applicants had elected prosecuting the group II claims, and the specific compound of Example 2, at page 15. Applicants now confirm the election of Group II and Example 2.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the statement at page 9 of the Office Action that claims 5-12 are allowable over the prior art. Applicants further thank the Examiner for the rejoinder of claims 13 and 14.

IV. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

At pages 10-13 of the office action, method of treatment claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as lacking enablement.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that claim 13 is not enabled. Nevertheless, in order to advance prosecution, claim 13 is canceled, thereby obviating the rejection. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claim 13 in a continuing application.

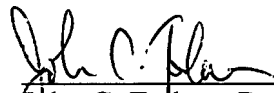
V. Conclusion

In view of the action taken, it is believed that all pending claims 5-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By



John C. Todaro, Reg. No. 36,036
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., Inc.
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, New Jersey 07065
Tel.: (732) 594-0125

Date: June 22, 2007